

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

3/22/05

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 301 (Gilbert)

SB 301 would provide for a sticker or decal to indicate that the holder of the id card has designated one or more patient advocates or carries an emergency medical information card and for a heart insignia on the front of the card if the card holder has indicated their wish to participate in the organ, tissue and eye donor registry. This bill is part of a four bill package to require the Secretary of State to ask driver's license and state id holders if they would like to join the organ, tissue and eye donor registry and to keep and transmit that data electronically to our state's federally designated organ procurement organization.

• SB 301 passed with IE [RC 55: 38 yes, 0 no].

HB 4054 (BIEDA)

HB 4054 would permit local jury boards, with approval by the chief circuit court judge, to remove convicted felons from the first jury list. Currently, anyone convicted of a felony is disqualified from jury service. However, convicted felons (by virtue of possessing a driver's license or state identification card) may be chosen in the first jury list and sent a juror qualifications questionnaire. Sending convicted felons a jury qualifications questionnaire is, some believe, not necessary given that they are automatically ineligible from serving on a jury. By permitting removing convicted felons from the first jury list, the bill could potentially save counties money when mailing jury questionnaires. In addition, the bill protects against the possibility (albeit a remote one) where a convicted juror is placed on a jury panel (which could provide grounds for an appeal of a verdict). Reportedly, in rare instances, a convicted felon has made it as far as the courtroom before being dismissed.

• HB 4054 passed with IE [RC 56: 38 yes, 0 no].

THIRD READING

SB 79 (McManus)

SB 79 would: 1) Allow a county to charge a per-household waste reduction surcharge of up to \$4 per month or \$50 per year if it were approved by the voters of a participating unit of government. 2) Permit a county to impose the voter-approved surcharge on commercial businesses. 3) Permit the collection of the approved surcharge through any reasonable billing method approved by the county.

Currently, by resolution, a county board of commissioners may impose a per-household surcharge on

households within the county of up to \$2 per month, or \$25 per year, for waste reduction programs and for the collection of consumer source separated materials for recycling or composting. (The consumer source separated materials include, but are not limited to, recyclable materials, household hazardous wastes, tires, batteries, and yard clippings.)

Support: MMA, MTA, MAC, DEQ.

- Committee 1 (S-3) was adopted.
- Birkholz 1A was adopted.
- SB 79 was moved to 3rd Reading.